

Announcement of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies to restore water quality in parts of Accotink Creek and Difficult Run that have benthic and bacteria impairments.

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announce the first public meeting to introduce the Accotink Creek and Difficult Run TMDL studies.

**PUBLIC MEETING:**

Tuesday, August 14, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 and 3

12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035

**MEETING DESCRIPTION:** This is the first meeting to introduce this project to the public. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information and discuss the study with community members.

**DESCRIPTION OF STUDY:** Portions of Accotink Creek and Difficult Run have been identified as impaired on the Clean Water Act §303(d) list for not supporting the primary contact recreation use due to elevated levels of bacteria, and the aquatic life use due to poor health in the benthic biological community. Virginia agencies are working to identify the sources of bacteria contamination and benthic stressors for these two stream segments. The impaired segment of Difficult Run is located in portions of the City of Fairfax, and Fairfax County. The impaired segment of Accotink Creek is also located in portions of the City of Fairfax, and Fairfax County. Below is a description of the impaired portions of Accotink Creek and Difficult Run that will be addressed in this study:

<b>Stream Name</b>	<b>Locality</b>	<b>Impairments</b>	<b>Area (miles)</b>	<b>Upstream Limit</b>	<b>Downstream Limit</b>
Accotink Creek	Fairfax County City of Fairfax	Fecal Coliform Bacteria Benthic	7.35	Confluence of Accotink Creek with Calamo Branch	Start of the tidal waters of Accotink Bay
Difficult Run	Fairfax County City of Fairfax	E. Coli Bacteria Benthic	2.93	Confluence of Difficult Run with Captain Hickory Run	Confluence of Difficult Run with the Potomac River

During the study, DEQ will develop a total maximum daily load, or a TMDL, for each impaired stream segment, for each specific impaired use. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL allocated amount.

**HOW TO COMMENT:** The public comment period on the materials presented at the Public Meeting will extend from August 14, 2007 to September 13, 2007. DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person

commenting, and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Please send all comments to the contact listed below.

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